THE NEW HOME

So Musa departed from the city,
fearful and vigilant.

Al-Qasas 28:21

Once upon a time in the distant lands of Egypt, there lived a prophet by the name of Musa or Moses عليه السلام. He was a young man who grew up in the grand palace of an evil King and a kind Queen. They were not his birth parents, the Prophet Musa عليه السلام knew that.

The Prophet Musa عليه السلام grew up to be kind and caring just like the Queen. He also grew up to be big and strong. Little did the Prophet Musa عليه السلام know that it would be his strength that got him into big trouble.

One day, the Prophet Musa عليه السلام went to the market. His eyes followed two men who were fighting in the dusty streets. One of the men called out to the Prophet Musa عليه السلام.

"O Musa!" he cried. "Help me!"

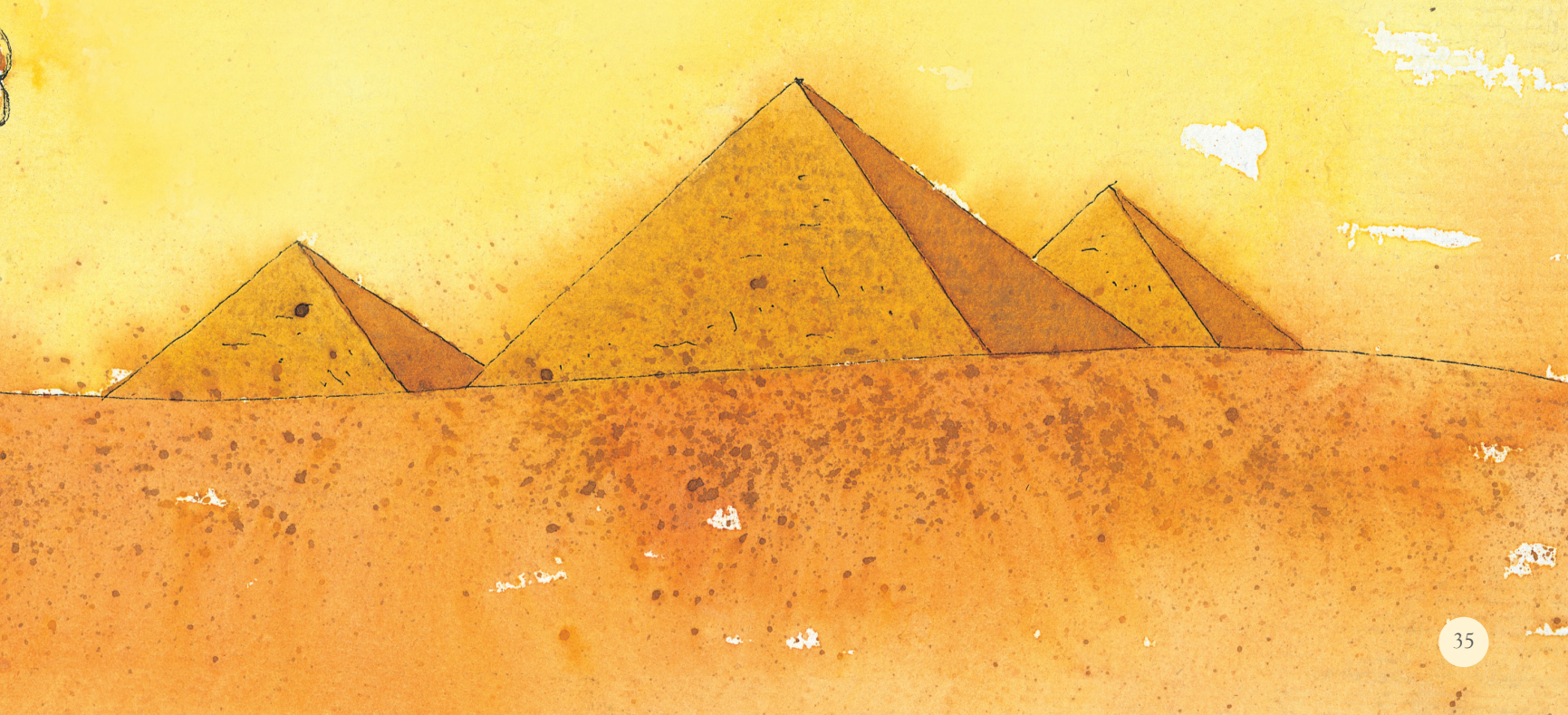
Suddenly, the Prophet Musa عليه السلام ran up to the fighters. He could see his friend was seriously hurt. In a bid to save his friend, the Prophet Musa عليه السلام hit the attacker who then lay lifeless on the floor. The Prophet Musa's strength got the better of him. He had accidentally killed a man. Sadness washed over him. He couldn't believe what he had done.

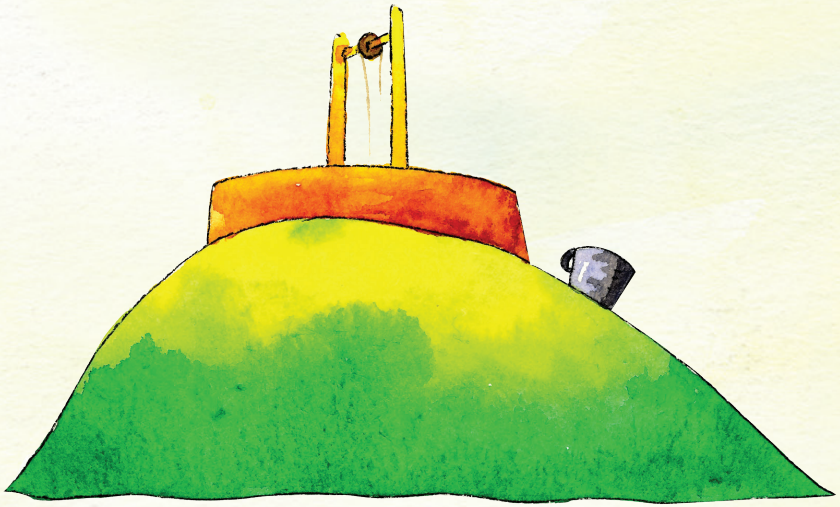
What would happen to him now? He immediately turned to Allah and said, “Forgive me! I have killed a man. This is a terrible thing.”

And Allah knew what was in the Prophet Musa’s heart. Allah knew that his actions were an accident. So Allah forgave him.

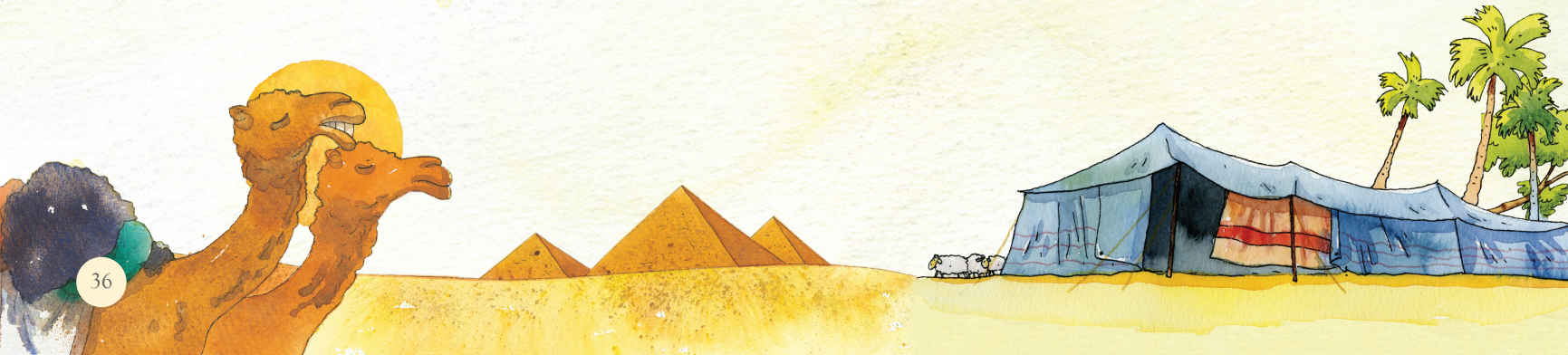
But the next day, word spread. The King's soldiers began their search for Musa عليه السلام. He had broken the law. Now he was being hunted down. The Prophet Musa عليه السلام didn't know where to turn. He had to leave quickly before he was caught. With nothing else to lose, Musa عليه السلام left his palace home behind him and headed away from the walls of Egypt.

After leaving Egypt, the Prophet Musa عليه السلام kept travelling far and wide. In time, he crossed a gigantic Sinai Mountain range and reached the land of Madyan. Here the sun kissed the bare sand. The deep, blue sky seemed endless. Faint clouds drifted lazily by. Soon the Prophet Musa عليه السلام grew tired and thirsty. He needed to find some water fast.





When the Prophet Musa عليه السلام found a nearby well, he noticed a big crowd around it. Both men and animals had gathered beside it. But a little distance away, there were two women who seemed to be waiting to water their sheep. The Prophet Musa عليه السلام took the sheep from the women and led the animals to the watering hole. When he returned, they thanked him and quickly rushed home to their father.



Their father was so thankful the Prophet Musa عليه السلام had helped that he offered the Prophet Musa عليه السلام work. From that day, the Prophet Musa عليه السلام became a shepherd who cared for his flock. It was here the Prophet Musa عليه السلام finally felt safe. It was here the Prophet Musa finally felt peace.

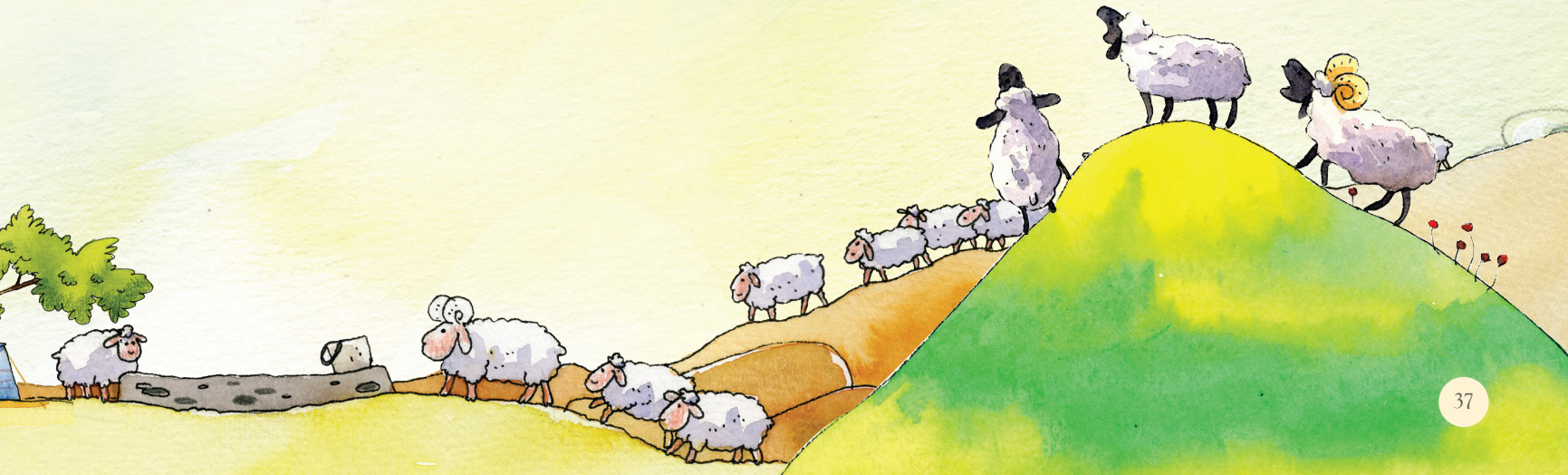
Soon the strange land of Madyan became the Prophet Musa's new home. The strange land of Madyan became the beginning of a bigger adventure.

MY QURAN PRAYER

رَبَّنَا لَا تُزِغْ قُلُوبَنَا بَعْدَ إِذْ هَدَيْتَنَا وَهَبْ لَنَا
مِن لَّدُنكَ رَحْمَةً ۚ إِنَّكَ أَنتَ ٱلْوَهَّابُ ﴿٨﴾

Our Lord, do not let our hearts go astray after You have guided us. Bestow upon us Your mercy. Surely You are a generous Giver.

Al `Imran 3:8



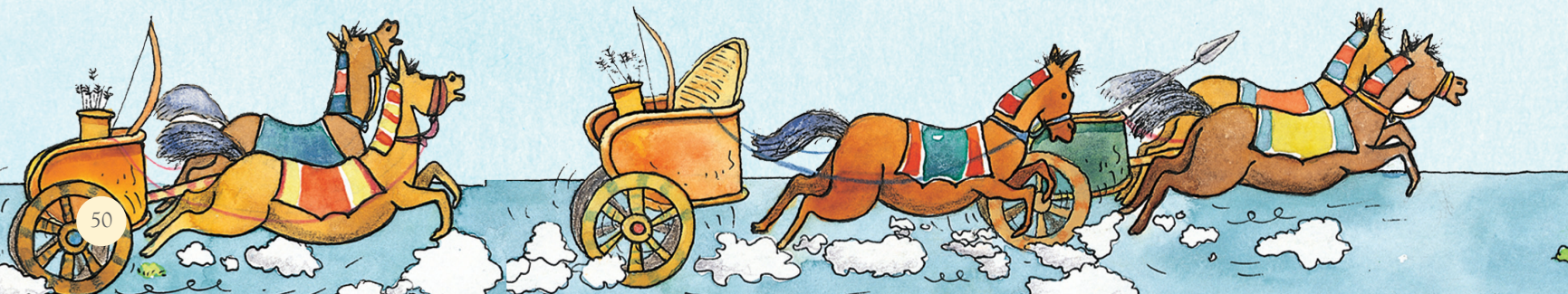
THE SEA PARTED

My Lord is with me, and He will guide me.

Al-Shu`ara´, 26:62

Thousands and thousands of years ago, Egypt was ruled by a cruel king named Firawn or Pharaoh. This king thought he was god and ordered his people to worship him and him alone. Firawn did not believe in Allah and he did not like those who did. Because of this, the cruel king troubled the Prophet Musa عليه السلام and his followers day and night.

Firawn's orders were to treat the Prophet Musa's people like slaves. They were known as Banu Israel or the Children of Israel.

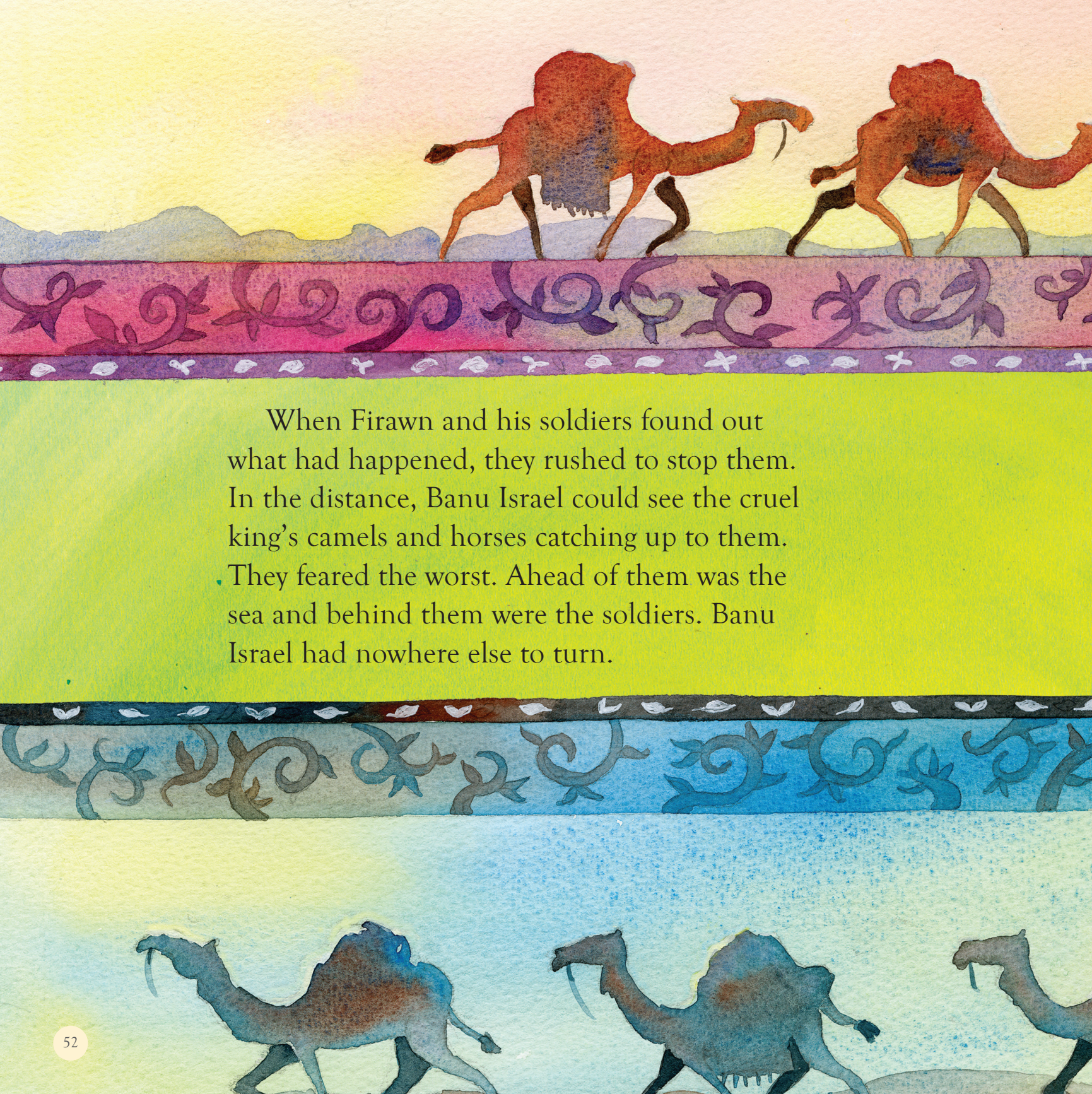


Firawn made sure that Banu Israel, Musa's people, were treated terribly by the Egyptians and his soldiers. And he made sure people knew that nobody was worse than Banu Israel.

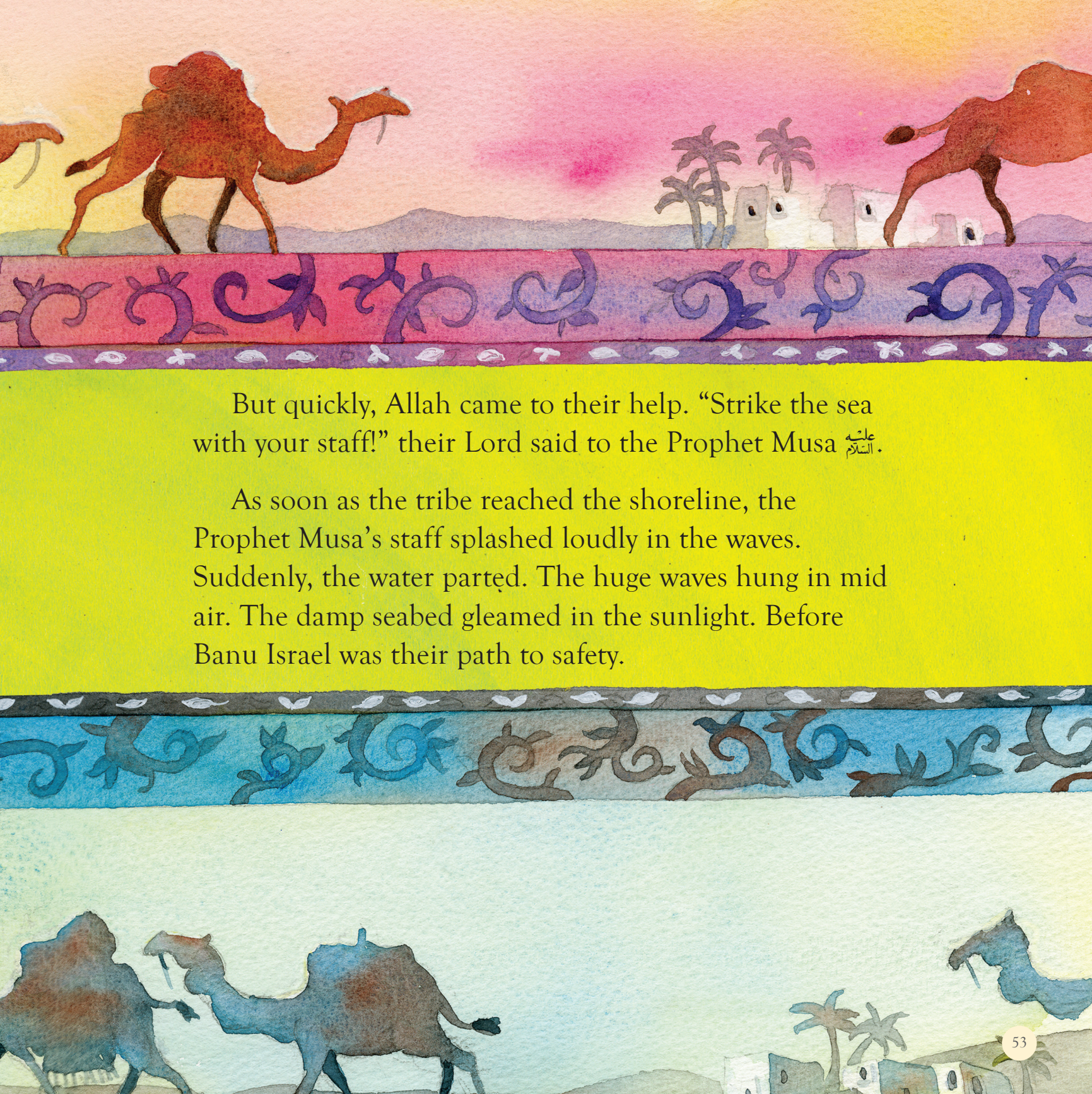
One day, the Prophet Musa's people couldn't take it anymore. They were scared for their safety and didn't know what to do.

So Allah told the Prophet Musa عليه السلام, "Travel by night and take My servants with you."

Soon bags were packed and the people were ready. In the darkness of the moonlight, all Banu Israel's men, women and children started leaving their homeland.



When Firawn and his soldiers found out what had happened, they rushed to stop them. In the distance, Banu Israel could see the cruel king's camels and horses catching up to them. They feared the worst. Ahead of them was the sea and behind them were the soldiers. Banu Israel had nowhere else to turn.



But quickly, Allah came to their help. “Strike the sea with your staff!” their Lord said to the Prophet Musa عليه السلام.

As soon as the tribe reached the shoreline, the Prophet Musa’s staff splashed loudly in the waves. Suddenly, the water parṭed. The huge waves hung in mid air. The damp seabed gleamed in the sunlight. Before Banu Israel was their path to safety.

The Prophet Musa عليه السلام and his people raced through the walls of the water. Firawn and his soldiers were right behind them. Seeing the path in the sea, they also set their feet in it in the hope to cross the mighty sea.

But the moment the Prophet Musa's people reached the sand on the other side, the waves crashed down again. The flood rushed quickly, crashing into the king and his army.

Soon the water overtook the enemies and nobody was saved. Nobody, the king or otherwise, survived. The Prophet Musa عليه السلام and his people were safe for now. For the moment, Banu Israel knew that Allah was the best of all helpers. For the moment, Banu Israel knew that Allah was by their side.

MY QURAN VERSE

وَإِذَا سَأَلَكَ عِبَادِى عَنِّى فَإِنِّى قَرِيبٌ ۖ أُجِيبُ دَعْوَةَ ٱلدَّاعِ إِذَا
دَعَانِ ۖ فَلْيَسْتَجِيبُوا۟ لِى وَلْيُؤْمِنُوا۟ بِى لَعَلَّهُمْ يَرْشُدُونَ ﴿١٨٦﴾

When My servants ask you about Me, say that I am near. I respond to the call of one who calls, whenever he calls to Me: let them, then, respond to Me, and believe in Me, so that they may be rightly guided.

Al-Baqarah 2:186

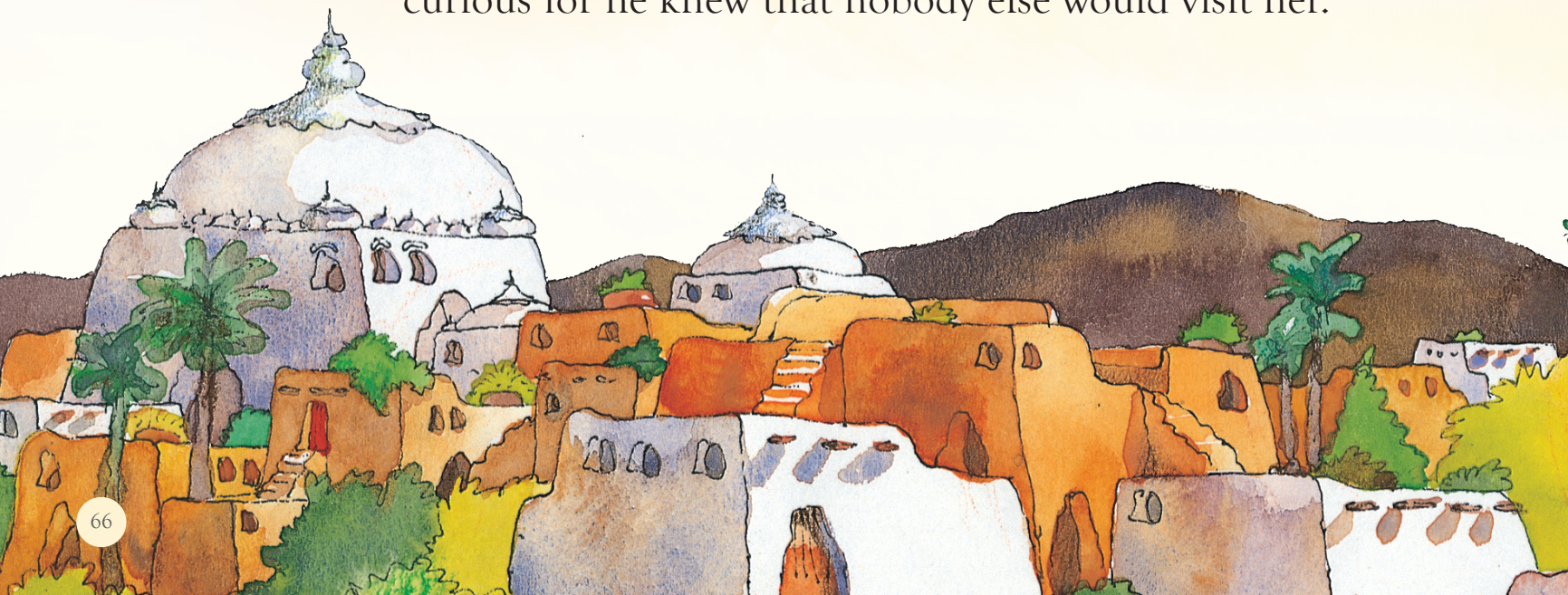
THE OLD MAN'S PRAYER

Allah gives you the good news of Yahya,
who shall confirm the Word from God.

Al-`Imran 3:39

The The Prophet Zakariyya عليه السلام was a noble man. He was an uncle of Maryam (Mary) too. When Maryam's father died, it was the Prophet Zakariyya عليه السلام who looked after her.

Whenever the Prophet Zakariyya عليه السلام visited Maryam in her chamber, he found that she had fresh food. Zakariyya عليه السلام was always curious for he knew that nobody else would visit her.



Zakariyyah عليه السلام would look at the food in amazement and ask Maryam where it came from.

"This is from Allah," Maryam answered simply. "Allah gives plenty to whoever He wishes"

Even though the Prophet Zakariyya عليه السلام looked after Maryam like she was his own daughter, the prophet still wanted a child of his own. But he was old and weak. His body was tired and he feared that it was too late.

One evening, he prayed to Allah for a son: "My bones are weak and my head is shining with grey hair. But my Lord, I have never been disappointed when praying to You."

Allah heard his prayers and sent His angels to greet him.

"Zakariyya," they said. "We bring you good news of a son whose name will be Yahya".

But Zakariyya عليه السلام was shocked. "How can I have a son when my wife and I are so old?"

But the prophet was reminded that Allah had created him before when he was nothing. Of course, it was easy for Allah to do anything.

The Prophet Zakariyya عليه السلام was filled with joy! Words of thanks came pouring from his lips. And it was so in his old age that the Prophet Zakariyya's prayers were answered and he had a son whose name was Yahya (John) عليه السلام.

Yahya عليه السلام grew up to be a loving soul. Allah gave him wisdom and goodness as a child and made him a prophet for his people.

Yahya عليه السلام grew up to be a good man. He honoured his father and mother in their old age too. He became a reminder that Allah helps believers in wondrous ways. He hears our prayers and answers them, even if they seem impossible to us at the time.

MY QURAN PRAYER

رَبِّ إِنِّي وَهَنَ ٱلْعَظْمُ مِنِّي وَٱشْتَعَلَ ٱلرَّأْسُ
شَيْبًا وَلَمْ أَكُنۢ بِدُعَآئِكَ رَبِّ شَقِيًّا ﴿٤﴾

Lord, my bones have weakened and my head has turned white with age, but never, Lord, have I been disappointed in my prayer to You.

Maryam 19:4

A UNIQUE MIRACLE

And by Allah's leave I will heal the blind and the leper and bring the dead to life.

Al-`Imran 3:49

The Prophet Isa (Jesus) عليه السلام was born in a town called Bayt Lahm (Bethlehem), a few miles south west of Jerusalem. He grew up in Nasiriya (Nazareth).

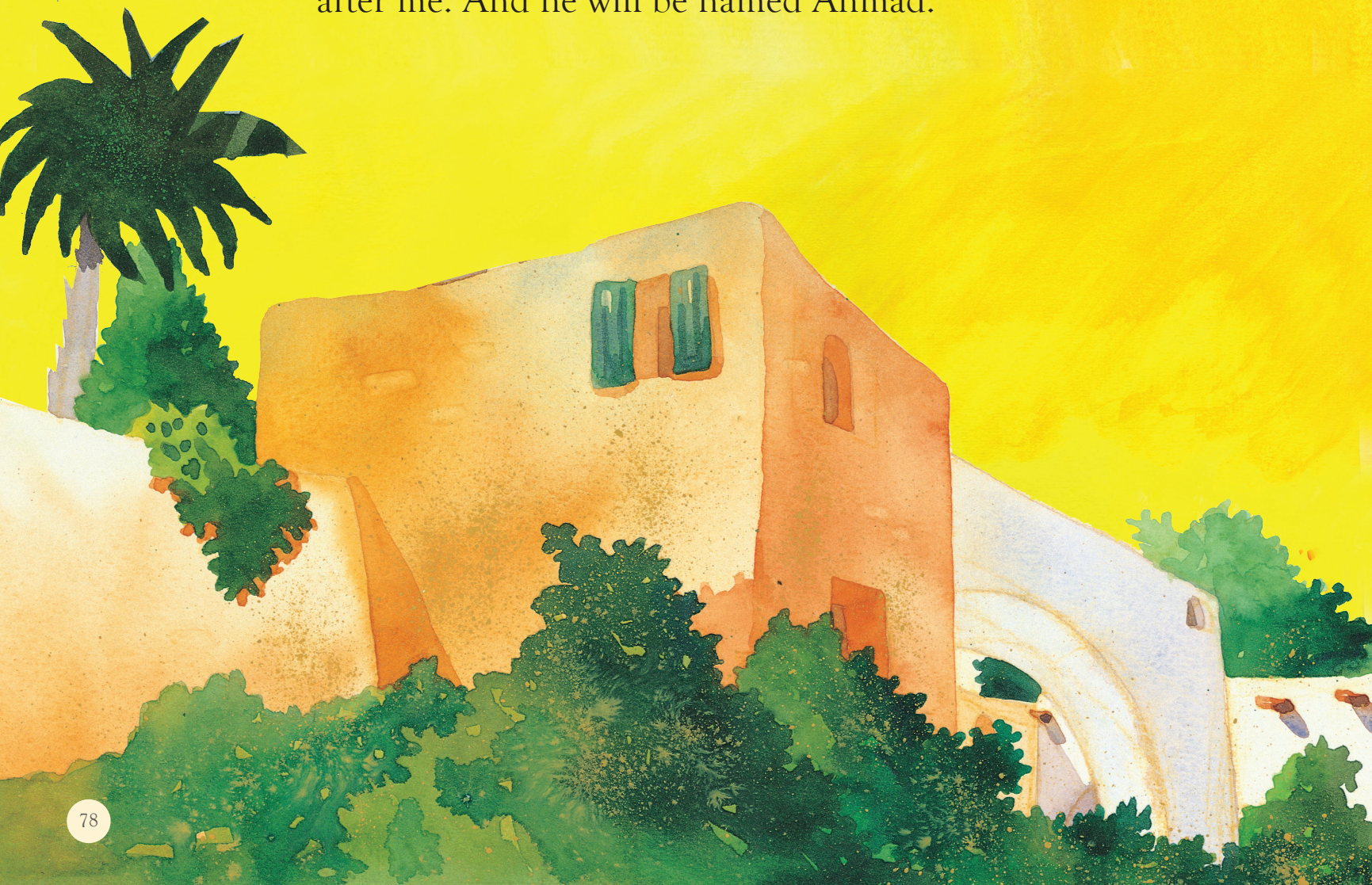
One day, the prophet's disciples asked him whether his Lord could send down a table spread with food from the heavens.

‘Fear Allah if you are true believers,’ warned Isa عليه السلام. But the disciples insisted. In answer to the Prophet Isa’s prayer, angels brought down a table spread with delicious food—a special miracle quite different from all others.

The Prophet Isa عليه السلام continued his mission for spreading the word of Allah for many years, but only a few answered his call. The Children of Israel were so angered by his ways that they wanted to kill him! To them, Isa was a troublemaker, who was spreading division in their land. But Allah saved him before his enemies could get to him. And somebody else, who they believed was Isa, was hurt instead.

The Prophet Isa عليه السلام said that the scrolls of old were true too, and they told the people about the last prophet.

Before he died, he said, 'I am sent to you from Allah to confirm the *Tawrat* already revealed, and to give you news of a messenger who will come after me. And he will be named Ahmad.

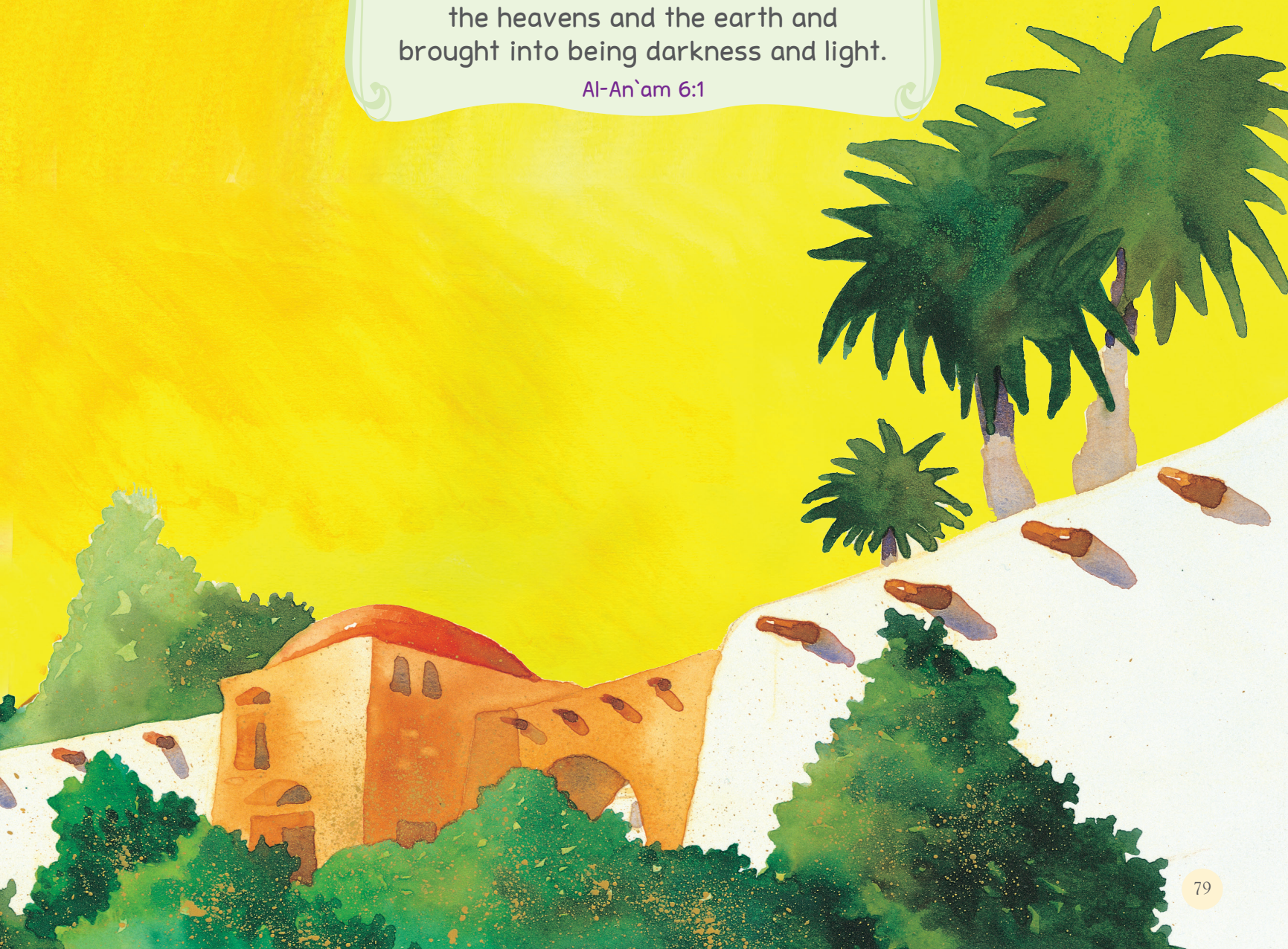


MY QURAN VERSE

ٱلْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ ٱلَّذِى خَلَقَ ٱلسَّمَٰوَٰتِ
وَٱلْأَرْضَ وَجَعَلَ ٱلظُّلُمَٰتِ وَٱلنُّورَ

Praise be to Allah, who has created
the heavens and the earth and
brought into being darkness and light.

Al-An`am 6:1



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